

VZCZCXRO7888  
OO RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN  
DE RUEHSB #0676 2241342  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 111342Z AUG 08  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3276  
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 2211  
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2330  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0862  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1607  
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1965  
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2386  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4817  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1479  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000676

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL  
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU  
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS  
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/02/2013  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: ZANU-PF--MDC NEGOTIATIONS SITREP

REF: HARARE 674

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

11. (C) Negotiations between ZANU-PF and the MDC took place all day Sunday and ended at 2:00 am Sunday morning after a closed-door session facilitated by South African president Thabo Mbeki with Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe and MDC leaders Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara as the only participants. The major obstacle to an agreement is the allocation of executive power. Although Tsvangirai had believed that Mugabe would cede executive power to him and assume the role of ceremonial president in order to achieve an honorable exit (Ref), Mugabe has refused to do so and is insisting on a power-sharing agreement. Reportedly, Mugabe wants to have jurisdiction over defense and security, and foreign affairs; under his proposal the MDC would have control over finance and economic-related ministries.

12. (C) Other contentious issues are the size of cabinet and the duration of the government. ZANU-PF wants a bloated cabinet to accommodate its top level officials. It has proposed a 36-member cabinet with ZANU-PF and the MDC-Tsvangirai faction each holding 15 seats and the MDC-Mutambara faction receiving 6 ministries. Tsvangirai's proposal calls for 22 ministries, plus positions of prime minister and two deputies. ZANU-PF and MDC-Tsvangirai would split the ministries; Mutambara would be given one or two. Tsvangirai wants a transitional government with a maximum term of 36 months; ZANU-PF is negotiating for a five year government.

13. (C) All signs are that Mutambara has swung to Mugabe's camp. He wrote an op-ed published on Sunday in the weekly The Standard in which he praised the liberation struggle and bashed Western interference in Zimbabwe. He also attended the Heroes Day celebration on Monday at which Mugabe spoke and made favorable references to him. (Tsvangirai did not attend.)

14. (C) The British Charge told us today that British Prime Minister Gordon Brown called Tsvangirai on Sunday, urged him

to stay the course, and emphasized there would be no renewal of international engagement if Mugabe retained executive power. Tsvangirai told Brown, as he told us, that he would hold firm and insist he hold all executive power; Mugabe could become a ceremonial president. Mugabe has also maintained his position, supported by the GOZ service chiefs, as well as ZANU-PF heavyweights such as Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor Gideon Gono and Emmerson Mnangagwa.

¶4. COMMENT: Negotiations resumed this afternoon. Tsvangirai is under intense pressure. Mugabe and Mutambara are apparently negotiating from the same play book and Mbeki, who has said he will stay until a deal is completed, desperately wants an agreement before South Africa assumes the SADC presidency on August 16. If Tsvangirai continues to stand on principle, however, it is difficult to see how an agreement will be reached. END COMMENT.  
MCGEE